

Good Evening Committee members and everyone on the call.

My name is Ramon Garcia and I'm from New Britain. I'm calling today in support of HB5283. An act concerning the education cost sharing grant formula and the funding of other education programs.

I humbly ask committee members to vote in favor of HB5283. Our state deserves a student-centered funding system that works for all students, all schools, and all regions of Connecticut. This legislative session, the General Assembly has a chance to pass such an education funding system with this bill.

Student-centered funding means that every student gets the resources they need to be successful. It's a plan built on what students need, not what zip code their school is in.

I was born and raised in this state and so are my children. I know the importance of having a good education so that our kids , my kids, Can thrive.

More funding means more teachers, social workers, school psychologists, student experiences, technology, and other support they need. Some of our students have completely unfair conditions. Kindergarten classrooms with 28 students and no paraprofessional and no access to mental health support. No career guidance overcrowded buildings along with an outdated infrastructure.

I hear from the many students I work with each and every week in my mentoring program about what they are facing. Most of them are easily solved with this bill. My daughter , a student in the New Britain School System has personally been affected by their school system which is full of issues and other inequities.

Wwe owe it to our kids and the other kids in the state. Together, we can pass HB5283, and our students, their families and our future will thank you for that effort.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

Ramon Garcia